



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING **Wednesday, October 7, 2015** Town Hall- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume-present
Michael Mackin-absent
Colleen Shapiro-present
Wendy Bertrand-present
Heather Sroka-present

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Sophia Holman

Guests

Brian Spadafino, LHS Principal, Tim Santry, THMS Principal, Elaine Blaisdell, Primary School Principal, John Londa, Director of Facilities, Steve Malandrinos, IT Director

Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review and Approve Warrants: warrants were on the table for signature. No line item transfers were discussed.

Chairs Report: Dr. Berthiaume stated the meeting would be televised and recorded for later broadcast. A Woman's Club Veteran's Luncheon will be held on November 11th from 12-2pm. Please call Eagle House to make a reservation.

Review and Approve Minutes: There were two sets of minutes presented for approval. Regular session minutes for September 2, 2015 and September 16, 2015 were approved by committee.

School Building Committee: Ms. Shapiro reported metal work on and around the curtain walls is nearing completion. All windows in and weathertight. Building area "A" & "D" are weather tight. Ceiling inspections ongoing. Lighting in area "A" ongoing. In areas "B" and "C" interior masonry nearing completion. Superintendent Calmes mentioned tiling of first floor of HS almost complete. Comment as to progress being amazing, planning flexible learning spaces and a holistic environment. At BOS meeting yesterday, change order #3, budget revision #4 presented. These go from the project to MSBA, to determine percentage of reimbursement. This change order total was \$49,182 to add glass in weight room, add carpeting in auditorium stairs, wood blocking for required millwork in science room so paper towels and soap can be hung above the sink, revision of granite curb, etc. Main item was underdrain work in parking lot-west end towards Oak Avenue. This will rectify concern of wet water running across roadway to become potentially slippery. Putting tubing in for water to drain into water pipe. Cost of this was \$27,903. Funding remaining in construction contingency is 4 million. Total to date of change orders is \$88,795.

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Calmes interviews continue for the open positions resulting from two current teachers being selected for the reading specialist positions. Completed interviews for the 3rd grade special education position. Kindergarten teacher position interviews are ongoing. Also the BCBA position is still open as well.
- Enrollment submitting Oct 1 count important to grants and funding. Trend continues of increased enrollment. (Handout). Since October 1st we have received five new students. Three at Kindergarten

*1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103*

level bringing that grade's enrollment to 103. Two new Pre-K students and that number will continue to climb during the year as children turn 3 and enter the program. Additional students enrolled at the third grade level and we are aware that we will have additional students with special needs that will be joining us shortly. Will be recommending an additional teacher for 2nd grade into third grade in next year's budget presentation. Right now we are looking at options to place additional supports in classrooms.

- Superintendent Calmes acknowledged Lunenburg Fire Dept. for their fire safety trailer at the Primary recently to develop awareness for students. We appreciate their time and effort for students.
- Superintendent Calmes welcomed the principals from the schools who are at the meeting tonight to provide the annual assessment updates. The updates are a little different today due to PARCC. Two years ago the State piloted the PARCC assessment. Last year some districts decided to do PARCC instead of MCAS. We chose to stay with MCAS. The State has not yet released the PARCC and so all accountability rating was delayed.
- 2015 MCAS Results

Mr. Santry was invited to present and began with a report on THMS Penny Wars fundraiser-goal was \$7,000 in five days, if students achieved this they could give the principal a Mohawk hairstyle. Exceeded goal and raised \$9,000 dollars. All field trips will be free of charge this year at THMS due to this and last year's fundraising efforts. Mr. Santry thanked the PTO and parents for their support. Mr. Santry explained he could not discuss accountability yet this year as state report cards have not been released to date. Gap narrowing goals for subgroups and percentile score comparing our school to others will be forthcoming. In beginning of December we will have more information and will update committee. The percent of THMS students in 8 of 9 content areas were at or above the state percentage for advanced/proficient areas. In Science & Technology THMS students were 12% higher than state average. Likewise in the Warning category THMS falls below the state average in 8 of 9 content areas. School improvement plan update is delayed due to hold of state release of accountability scores. In 5 out of 8 tested areas, 2 of those areas above 60% growth. 40-60% is considered strong growth. In 3 other tested areas scores below 50%. Have seen some progress, however some scores are still concerning. Continue to work with teachers and content experts outside of school system towards improvement. Individual student reports will go home Friday to parents in backpacks. These will be in sealed envelopes for confidentiality. Through school messenger parents will be informed.

Dr. Berthiaume indicated that he found it useful to have a workshop looking at all the data on student performance last year. He suggested another one this year and asked the administration to inform the School Committee of the appropriate time for this workshop.

Ms. Blaisdell discussed 3rd grade MCAS assessment. 127 student's participated-highest number we have had. As this is the first time for 3rd graders taking this assessment, they try hard to make sure this is not anxiety producing.

In area of ELA 75 students or 60% scored adv./prof. 43 students or 30% in needs improvement. 14 of those students were very close to receiving proficient score. Results were slightly lower than last year. Action taken for improvement will be to institute more PD during faculty meetings once a month by two mentors which will happen all year. In the area of Math, 66% or 82 students adv./prof.- 26 students adv. 63 students prof. 25% in needs improvement. Of that 25% , 8 students scored 230 or above. This is a big difference from last year and cause for concern- looking at curriculum. Updated to new Everyday Math materials aligned with the common core. Teachers participated in PD about new materials and the new structures of the lessons. High need students continue to fall behind in both ELA and Math- CPI of 100 is the target. 71.8 CPI currently. Math identified area and perimeter and fractions as weaknesses. Continue to address these gaps using reading specialists, accommodation's , etc. Third grade teachers in process of analyzing results. Will do item analysis. DESE graphs are available for data. Parents will receive the 4th grade results. This will be the last time assessments are done at the Primary school due to coming transition/reconfiguration. Superintendent Calmes mentioned class sizes have also been 24-26 students which can impact learning. Acknowledging impact of these large class sizes. Invited the school committee to view the data wall at the Primary school.

- Mr. Spadafino reporting strong scores. Encourage teachers to take risks and engage students in not only classroom instruction. 8th grade- 88% adv./prof which was down three points but up 21% advanced scores. 5 students with perfect scores. 74% adv./prof in Math. 58% adv./prof in Science/ Technology up 28% from last year. 10th grade- 97% adv./prof. in ELA. 88% adv./prof in Math. 61% of students performing advanced. 86% adv./prof. in Science/technology for 9th and 10th graders which is down 4%. DART measuring schools against other schools of similar size and population showed LHS fell at the top in every category. SAT scores showed a small dip of scores in reading, but an increase of 23 points since 2012. Math scores have increased. Over next year SAT will be changing, students will be taking different tests, data will not be comparable. AP scores stable over last 5 years which is amazing knowing there are more tests now and students are taking more advanced classes as a whole. This includes students that are completing classes online in Virtual HS. Number of exams administered last year were 211-the most done to date. This hopefully indicates that students will be prepared and confident. Statistics show that students as a result are performing well when they go to college.

Student Representative's Report: Ms. Holman reported Best Buddies now selling popcorn as a fundraiser. Soccer night tonight. College advisors arriving to speak with seniors regarding the college application process. Field hockey/soccer teams holding cancer awareness night games on Oct. 14th and 17th to play in memory of Kelly Arciprete and Deborah Houston. All proceeds will be given to the Dana- Farber Cancer Institute and the Margaret Thurston Healing Garden.

Old Business:

a. Capital Plan: Mr. Londa reviewing October 15th capital plan.(Handout). Added the Brooks House on to the district facilities status. Next slide overviewed 10-15 year plan, School Committee expecting renovation to be at least 15 years out. Moved dates for statement of interest to FY27 and feasibility study to FY28. Would entail replacement or renovation of facility. Noted that due to age of building roof leaks, electrical distribution failures, roof replacement would be in the 2023-2024 timeframe. Roof will be 25-28 years old at that time. Mr. Londa noted that we should have a robust maintenance program due to complexity of new building systems, and age of other buildings. Proposed FY17 capital plan changes included asbestos abatement-ceilings and floors will only address those ceilings that have asbestos, will not include classrooms on 2nd floor, etc. Moved replacement for pickup truck until FY18. FY24 carrying one million dollar replacement cost for the roof. Dr. Berthiaume commented regarding the solar panel issue and to give information to public as to why specific year was chosen. Want to make sure people are informed that there are not facility problems at other buildings, only THMS. Mr. Londa explained that this version has taken out all of the flooring previously included for asbestos removal and will focus on areas above ceiling, hallway of 2nd floor, will be asking for \$145,000 in FY17, which will take care of first floor hallway and one stairwell, but will be a reduction in size/scale. Motion to approve capital plan by Ms. Sroka, Ms. Bertrand seconded. **Vote: unanimous**

b. One on one computing: Mr. Malandrinos discussed this plan would have minimal budget impact but make program feasible and sustainable. (Handout) District will cover devices for any students on IEPs, free/reduced lunch. In 9th grade would pay \$100 fee, 10th grade \$134 dollar fee. Grades 11 and 12 only \$30 fee, and would not retain devices. Devices will translate into carts for lower grades when students graduate for grades 4-8. See handout for every year. Superintendent Calmes explained that she has spoken to the DESE, and town accountant. Need a comprehensive technology plan to see where this would fit in. At this point over the years we have reduced the program to one technology teacher in district. Before we move forward, the Superintendent would recommend having a pilot program, as she couldn't recommend a total implementation. Knew this had to be cost neutral, would like to see how to keep this manageable as a 21st century program without adding many fees for parents. Not recommending this proposal at this point. Dr. Berthiaume asked what the implications are if we do not move forward with this proposal yet the commonwealth moves forward with testing electronically? Mr. Malandrinos explained that without this proposal they would still utilize carts for testing which means all technology at that time would be used for testing and would be unavailable for other students during the testing periods. Will be increasing devices for grades 6-12 anyway. Dr. Berthiaume stated that they had planned to leverage building facility funding for this, so if we have the opportunity now, but choose to skip this, we may not have the opportunity later. If you do not utilize building funding, this will have to be phased in. Question as to when there will be a technology plan-this will continue to be addressed. Ms. Shapiro commented as to the \$100 student fee if implemented, but if students will be keeping the device in the end, this fee sounds reasonable. Ms. Bertrand asked about the life expectancy of a Chromebook. Mr. Malandrinos stated that hardware after 4 years will start to break down; operating system itself could last longer.

Survey completed showed that at least 1 in 10 students did not have access to any device. Most students had access to a phone as a device. Hoping to start to address that inequity. Some classes already have online components and textbooks which will reduce the number of physical books and weight of backpacks. Many school districts are now providing Chromebooks or laptops; students at HS level are responsible for them. Parents do like to have option of insurance package. Dr. Berthiaume asked to have an outline of a plan by early November meeting as to when they will have a technology plan to integrate curriculum in a way that could have a one to one computing environment.

New Business:

a. Reconfiguration Advisory Committee: Identified a few weeks ago the charge of the committee was to preserve memorial donations, dedications and ceremonies. Lance May, Amanda Waltz, Steve Schaff, Ms. Petersen, Mr. McCauliff, Mr. Di Perri, Ms. Shapiro volunteered. Motion to appoint committee by Ms. Sroka, Ms. Bertrand seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

b. Start Times Vote: A calendar and start time advisory committee had been formed that made recommendations for start times recently to the school committee. The wellness advisory recommended moving forward due to adolescents and their need for a later start time. Concerns were brought forth in developing the proposal to not push Primary school start time any later than the present time. Knew reconfiguration was an opportunity to move forward and drop down to 2 bus runs. Provided public with many opportunities through Superintendents Update and handouts at open houses for feedback. Generally received positive feedback. Proposal is as follows: Grades 6-12 8am start time with dismissal at 2:30pm, grades 3-5 start time would be 8:50am with dismissal at 3:10pm, K-2 start time would be 9:00am with a 3:20 dismissal. Pre-K times listed on handout(Handout). Dr. Berthiaume thanked everyone for their consideration and flexibility. Superintendent recommended approval of calendar and start time advisory committee's recommendations. Ms. Bertrand motioned to accept proposal, Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote: unanimous**

* Public Comment – Dr. Asher , family physician, resident of Lunenburg. Asked to table this vote due to his recommendation that there was no health benefit to moving a start time for only 20 minutes. American Academy of Pediatrics have stated this is a real issue that needs to be addressed. Even though this decision affects the bus and athletics, the real issue is the health of adolescents according to Dr. Asher. Every change has an impact that takes getting used to. He encouraged tabling this decision for 90 days to still look at more data. Encouraged discussion of switching times around- younger children attending school earlier, adolescents later. Ms. Shapiro stated logistics of doing one bus run, and option of putting this out to bid. This decision of new start times would be for rollout the 1st year within the new school, and then will return to look at this again. Have been discussing these particular start times since May. Has been abundant opportunity for feedback. Plan although not optimal is a rational one to move in the right direction and revisit in the following year. Due to fiscal constraints and timing, Dr. Berthiaume suggested moving forward, but deferred to committee for suggestions. Ms. Shapiro commented that she suggested to move forward while also having start time committee reviewing more data. Ms. Bertrand would like to revisit this again when we get a clearer picture of field access, etc. Could we include this in our bid to look at one bus run-Dr. Berthiaume stated we can , but this would double our buses which would double our cost, and these decisions should be put out to public for review. Superintendent Calmes also suggested to give us information as to the impacts on younger children if there are any as well. Decision made by committee to move forward and not rescind start times vote.

Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume stated there was no report.
- b. School Councils- Ms. Sroka could not attend at the Primary school. THMS met last Tuesday Ms. Bertrand reported and discussed school improvement plan, meet more often-once a month due to transition & handbooks. Will have two separate SIPs.
- c. PTO- Ms. Bertrand reported Sup. Calmes gave wonderful virtual tour of school, Miles for Myles upcoming event, membership check in 254 members as of today
- d. Policy Sub-Committee- rescheduled meeting possibly Oct. 29th.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported meeting on Tuesday, Chief Marino and Chief Sullivan gave projection of 20 year plan.
- f. Wellness Advisory- not met since last time
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported having no schedule of meetings to date.

- h. Re-Use: Mr. Londa reported meeting on Monday. Initial programming of spaces for municipal buildings from Charlie Hay-to determine how much space each dept. needed. Total space 18,000 square feet could go into 4 town buildings.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration- Superintendent Calmes reported team has continued to meet and building teams are working on scheduling, putting together those proposals-reps from special content areas and classroom teachers reviewed space configurations and requirements for desks, etc. Samples brought to LHS for viewing and feedback from students and staff. Standing desks being viewed, as well as discussion of configurations. Storage space reviewed as well. Thanked Tappe for good listening of faculty, and enhancements of classroom spaces. First tech meeting to outline purchases infrastructure, etc. will be with admin and consultant Tuesday of next week.
- j. Diversity Advisory Committee- Superintendent Calmes stated a resignation has taken place due to a move. Committee has not met yet.
- k. Start Time Sub-Committee- no updates, on hiatus.

Items for Future Discussion: none discussed.

Adjournment – Ms. Shapiro made a motion to adjourn regular session, Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**
Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary